

"Our flag carries American ideas, American history, and American feelings. Beginning with the colonies and coming down to our time, in its sacred heraldry it has gathered and stored chiefly this supreme idea: *Divine right of liberty in man*. Every color means liberty: every thread means liberty; every form of star and beam or stripe of light means liberty."

5. ODE TO THE FLAG

Stars of the early dawning, set in a field of blue,
 Stripes of the sunrise splendor, crimson and white of hue;
 Flag of our fathers, fathers born on the field of strife,
 Phoenix of fiery battle risen from human life;
 Given for God and freedom, sacred, indeed, the trust
 Left by the countless thousands returned to the silent dust.

Flag of a mighty nation waving aloft unfurled;
 Kissed by the sun of heaven, caressed by the winds of the world;
 Greater than kingly power, greater than all mankind;
 Conceived in the need of the hour, inspired by the master mind;
 Over the living children, over the laureled grave,
 Streaming on high in the cloudless sky, banner our fathers gave.

Flag of a new-born era, token of every right
 Wrung from a tyrant power, unawed by a tyrant's might;
 Facing again the menace outflung from a foreign shore,
 Meeting again the challenge as met in the years before;
 Under thy spangled folds thy children await to give
 All that they have or are that the flag they love shall live.

—Charles C. Crellin.

(From *Liberty Reader*, by Sheridan. Publisher: Benj. H. Sanborn.)

6. GEORGE WASHINGTON

This was the man God gave us when the hour
 Proclaimed the dawn of Liberty begun;
 Who dared a deed, and died when it was done.
 Patient in triumph, temperate in power—
 Not striving like the Corsican to tower